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Conclusions and recommendations of the second biannual review of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in the Central African Republic

Assessment of commitments by the Peacebuilding Commission

1. The last progress report on the Peacebuilding Commission's Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in the Central African Republic was issued in January 2010 (PBC/4/CAF/2). Over the past year a number of developments in the country have informed the decision to delay the second review of the Strategic Framework. With regard to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, the verification of the lists of ex-combatants has been conducted in the north-west of the country, but disarmament and demobilization activities have started only recently, despite significant funding provided by donors, including through the Peacebuilding Fund. After several delays, the first round of presidential and legislative elections were held on 23 January 2011, and the second round of legislative elections on 27 March 2011.

2. The preparation of the country's presidential and legislative elections may have also impacted negatively on the speed of progress in other areas, notably in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration.

3. The timing of this review coincides with the finalization of the country's second-generation poverty reduction strategy paper and of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework/integrated strategic framework. The Peacebuilding Commission's Strategic Framework expires at the end of 2011.

4. In this context, in addition to assessing progress since the last review, the present review may inform the fine-tuning of the second-generation poverty reduction strategy paper, so as to fully incorporate peacebuilding elements of the Peacebuilding Commission's Strategic Framework.

5. Overall, the Peacebuilding Commission is of the view that progress, albeit slow, has been achieved on various fronts, and that peacebuilding, as a process, has moved in the right direction, despite setbacks and challenges. Despite early postponements, elections have been held, a national human rights commission is

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being set up, verification of ex-combatants took place in the north-west, the country achieved the heavily indebted poor country completion point in June 2009, a second-generation poverty reduction strategy paper has been presented to international partners, the 10-year plan for the reform of the justice sector is well under way, with the support of the rule of law project of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The security sector reform process essentially came to a standstill after the October 2009 security sector reform round table, which did not result in new donor commitments. Progress in the implementation of the recommendations of the December 2008 inclusive political dialogue, which is monitored by the dialogue's Follow-up Committee, has remained slow. As at the end of November 2010, two years after the holding of the dialogue, less than half of the 116 recommendations (43) had been implemented, and 15 additional recommendations had been only partially implemented.

6. The Peacebuilding Fund approved a second allocation of $20 million in early 2010. Priorities identified for the second tranche were aligned with those in the Peacebuilding Commission's Strategic Framework and focus on support to (a) disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and security sector reform; (b) rule of law and good governance; and (c) conflict-affected communities (as part of the development hubs programme). This will enable the United Nations system and the Government in the Central African Republic to build on the gains from the first Peacebuilding Fund allocation and complement the efforts of other stakeholders in these areas, such as the European Union and the Peacebuilding Commission.

7. In pursuance of its commitments, during the period under review, the Peacebuilding Commission undertook a number of actions to support the national peacebuilding efforts of the Central African Republic.

8. Although the reviews did not take place on a biannual basis, the additional time given between the first and second review has coincided with a number of important developments in the country, such as the holding of the presidential and legislative elections in January and March 2011.

9. In terms of generating and maintaining international attention and support for the country, the Peacebuilding Commission, together with the World Bank, organized a high-level side event in the margins of the September 2010 High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals in New York, which was attended by the United Nations Secretary-General, the President of the Central African Republic, the Vice-President of the World Bank for the Africa Region, the African Union Commission Chairperson, and the President of the African Development Bank, as well as senior representatives of subregional organizations, such as the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC) and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Development Commissioner of the European Union, and several ministers from United Nations Member States. At the event, the World Bank announced a new International Development Association allocation of $20 million for the Central African Republic and several bilateral partners expressed their intention to contribute to the electoral budget and other priority areas.

10. One key outcome of the September 2010 event was the decision to organize a partners' round table on the peacebuilding and development needs of the country following the conclusion of the presidential and legislative elections. On 16 and 17 June 2011, the round table was held in Brussels, hosted by the Government of

Belgium and organized by the Government of the Central African Republic, with the support of the Peacebuilding Commission, UNDP, the World Bank and the African Development Bank (AfDB).

11. In December 2009, the Peacebuilding Commission conducted a high-level visit to the Central African Republic, with representatives from Belgium, France, Gabon, Japan, Poland, South Africa and the International Organization of la Francophonie, to further galvanize and mobilize the support by the international community to the Central African Republic.

12. The advocacy role played by the Peacebuilding Commission over the reporting period has also resulted in the engagement with the country of various partners, including the International Development Law Organization, Caritas Internationalis and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). The constructive cooperation with the World Bank has been further intensified.

13. One of the outcomes of the Peacebuilding Commission's démarche towards IPU was the deployment of an assessment mission by the Union in December 2009, which later resulted in the creation of an IPU project aimed at strengthening the capacities of the National Assembly, both in terms of its elected members and its secretariat bodies, and which contains specific activities on dialogue and reconciliation. The Peacebuilding Commission is still in search of funding for that project. Meanwhile, IPU has indicated that it will invest some of its resources in the organization of an orientation programme for newly elected members, in cooperation with UNDP.

14. The Peacebuilding Commission has also engaged directly with the country's Minister of Justice with a view to better understanding the country's needs in the area of the rule of law, and identifying ways in which it can support critical gaps, notably in the context of the Central African Republic's 10-year plan for the reform of the justice sector. As a result of its advocacy for mobilizing resources, the Commission has engaged with the Rome-based International Development Law Organization, which has produced a project proposal in line with the country's 10-year plan, which addresses in an integrated way the strengthening of the justice sector, together with measures to build a legal and institutional framework conducive to economic progress and a more effective participation of civil society in the peacebuilding process. The Commission is also seeking financial support for this critical initiative.

15. The Peacebuilding Commission has also offered its platform for briefings by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in the Central African Republic, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons, the Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and several ministers of the Government of the Central African Republic.

16. The Commission also continued its fruitful dialogue with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and advocated with the newly appointed Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, resulting in the inclusion of the case of the Central African Republic in her priority list.

17. As part of its support for integrating regional and subregional perspectives into peacebuilding, the Peacebuilding Commission has routinely engaged CEMAC, ECCAS and the African Union in its activities. The African Union and AfDB have

both opened liaison offices in Bangui, which will further strengthen their engagement in the country.

18. In the post-electoral phase, in particular as the country developed its new poverty reduction strategy paper, the Peacebuilding Commission paid increased attention to supporting national authorities in developing the strategy paper in a peacebuilding and conflict-sensitive way. Similarly, the Peacebuilding Commission maintained its dialogue with all other relevant national actors, including the political opposition, civil society and the private sector, to ensure the inclusiveness of the country's peacebuilding process, and the national buy-in to the Government's vision expressed in the strategy paper.

19. Natural resources being one of the sources of conflict, the Peacebuilding Commission will need to focus on ways in which it can help the Government to improve the management of its natural resources, with a view to making it contribute towards the implementation of priority peacebuilding activities, including reintegration and economic revitalization of communities affected by conflict. Considerable efforts are required by the Government in order to strengthen transparent and accountable governance of natural resources. It is noteworthy that the Central African Republic attained compliance status with the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, although the Initiative is limited to the formal mining sector, and does not account for the larger informal part of the mining sector, in particular artisanal diamond mining.

20. With respect to the implementation of the recommendations of the December 2008 inclusive political dialogue, the Peacebuilding Commission has focused its attention mainly on the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and the electoral processes and has given sustained attention to the work of the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Steering Committee, chaired by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA). The Peacebuilding Commission continues to urge all parties to prepare for disarmament and demobilization activities and to appreciate the urgency of finalizing a reintegration strategy for demobilized ex-combatants through the Steering Committee. Such a reintegration strategy needs to be considerate of ongoing or planned interventions by other relevant stakeholders and international partners in order to ensure coherence.

21. Adequate risk assessments should be conducted if the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Steering Committee decides to undertake disarmament and demobilization without a fully developed and funded reintegration strategy, or if disarmament, demobilization and reintegration were not to be conducted simultaneously throughout the territory.

22. The strategy will also need to address in a sustainable manner the underlying factors of conflict in a comprehensive way. Reintegration depends first and foremost on the broader socio-economic development of the concerned regions. Consideration should be given to the assimilation of the reintegration strategy into the second-generation poverty reduction strategy paper and to strengthening the linkages with development and peacebuilding efforts in concerned regions, including efforts supported by the Peacebuilding Fund, the World Bank and the European Union. This would facilitate the securing of needed funding for reintegration.

23. Although the joint support of the Peacebuilding Fund and UNDP has created a capacity to implement the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process since January 2010, this has not materialized. Developments on the ground have been exceedingly slow, in large part due to the politicization of the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Steering Committee in the run-up to the elections in January 2011, causing operational and programmatic delays. The withdrawal of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic (MINURCAT) from the north-east, as well as the funding uncertainty of the reintegration process, has further added to the complexity. Clarity needs to be found as to how the stalled disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process will be effectively relaunched, and how it will move forward in the light of the challenging security situation in the north-east, as well as the lack of financial resources for reintegration. In this regard, the readiness of the international community to contribute resources to reintegration will depend largely on the Government's own financial contribution. The Peacebuilding Commission looks forward to the findings of the United Nations disarmament, demobilization and reintegration/security sector reform assessment mission recently deployed to the Central African Republic to assess how best to articulate United Nations support to both processes in the light of recent developments.

24. On the positive side, UNICEF implemented a disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme for children in Paoua and Bocaranga, resulting in the release of 525 child soldiers from the ranks of the Armée populaire pour la restauration de la démocratie, although the reintegration component should be further developed. This activity was funded by the Peacebuilding Fund. The Peacebuilding Commission calls for the implementation of the United Nations-led monitoring and reporting mechanism, as stipulated in Security Council resolutions 1612 (2005) and 1882 (2009), and in that regard, will continue to advocate for the necessary human and financial resources to be made available to the BINUCA child-protection component.

25. As regards elections, the Peacebuilding Commission successfully advocated for financial support by the international community, ultimately bridging the $7.5 million funding gap in the electoral budget. The Commission welcomes the holding of the presidential and legislative elections, but expressed concern with regard to the many technical problems encountered, especially on voting day, and in the process of compiling the results. The Commission therefore welcomes the recommendations put forward by the Constitutional Court and accepted by the Government, namely, the creation of a permanent and professional electoral commission, the computerization of the voters' lists and the issuance of biometric voter registration cards. Additional measures, such as the alignment of the constituency division according to the latest population figures, need to be considered in order to respect the recommendations of the inclusive political dialogue. The recommendations issued by different electoral observation missions will also be taken into account.

26. Although part of the organizational difficulties were resolved in the second round of parliamentary elections, the vote took place without a decision of the Constitutional Court on the validity of the results of the first round. The legal opposition called for a boycott and for its candidates to refrain from participating in the second round. In this context, the Peacebuilding Commission urges the Central African Republic authorities to resume without delay, and maintain, the political

dialogue with the opposition, in order to correct any electoral deficiencies for future elections. The Commission will take due account of the efforts made in this regard in its future engagement with the newly elected authorities and other national stakeholders with a view to furthering the country's peacebuilding agenda.

27. The Peacebuilding Commission welcomes the creation of a National Human Rights Commission and the establishment of the office of the Ombudsperson. It will continue to monitor closely the human rights situation in the country and to follow up on the performance of the Human Rights Commission and the office of the Ombudsperson.

28. The Peacebuilding Commission will pay increased attention to security sector reform in recognition of the importance of a professional and effective national security and defence force in the Central African Republic, in particular after the withdrawal of MINURCAT from Birao at the end of 2010. Within the framework of the national security sector reform seminar held in April 2008, in order to effectively address the challenges being faced by the country, the objective of security sector reform efforts in the Central African Republic should remain that of recasting the security and defence forces, as well as the justice sector, into a coherent set of institutions that work together to uphold the rule of law, promote human rights and foster development. As part of that support, the Peacebuilding Commission has indicated its willingness to undertake resource mobilization for a national security sector reform strategy once it has been refined and prioritized. Such a strategy needs to be nationally owned and coherent, and incorporate specific commitments by the Central African Republic authorities, including with regard to the funding of the reform. The political will of national authorities needs to be reascertained. Elements of that strategy could be incorporated into the new poverty reduction strategy paper, which was submitted to the international community at the Brussels partners' round table.

29. The Peacebuilding Commission will, furthermore, pay increased attention to the effective launching of the implementation of the development hubs programme, which will have a beneficial impact on populations, in particular, those in communities affected by conflict. Additional resources beyond the initial commitment of the European Union will be needed, and the Peacebuilding Commission will play its part in mobilizing additional resources to that effect. In that regard, consideration should be given to the actions that are complementary to the development hubs programme included in the poverty reduction strategy paper.

30. The Peacebuilding Commission commends the efforts deployed by BINUCA under the able leadership of the former Special Representative of the Secretary-General in the Central African Republic, Sahle-Work Zewde, to support the Government of the Central African Republic. The Commission further welcomes the appointment of Margaret Vogt as the new Special Representative of the Secretary-General in the Central African Republic, and looks forward to the continued work of BINUCA with the Government and other partners to deliver results on the peace process.

Assessment of commitments by the Government of the Central African Republic and civil society

31. The commitments of the Government and civil society in the Strategic Framework revolve around three priorities, namely: (a) security sector reform and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration; (b) good governance and rule of law; and (c) development hubs. Addressing these three priorities, which complement and reinforce each other, will facilitate the return of peace and its consolidation throughout the country.

32. Most of the activities in the areas of security sector reform and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration have been implemented by the Government in accordance with its commitments identified in this axis, including the adoption of legislation. The effective implementation of this legislation facilitated progress in several areas, such as institutional reforms, the strengthening of institutional and human capacities, and the creation of an environment conducive to peace.

33. Evaluation of the activities of this axis, namely (a) reorganization and deployment throughout the territory of trained and well-equipped defence and security forces; and (b) re-establishment and strengthening of trust between the population and national institutions, emphasized the need for support from the Peacebuilding Fund in the context of the construction of prisons and brigades (cf. second-allocation projects).

34. These actions complement the activities of civil society to raise awareness among the population, in areas of gender-based violence and the promotion of a culture of peace. The return of some internally displaced persons, refugees and some rebel groups was achieved with multifaceted assistance for their reintegration into the host communities. There is a continued need to improve the provision of basic social services to facilitate their sustainable return.

35. With regard to priority area (b), good governance and rule of law, progress has been made in the implementation of some of the recommendations of the inclusive political dialogue, strengthening of institutional and human capacities of national institutions, respect for human rights and the rights of the child, and the promotion of an environment conducive to business, peace and the return of confidence. However, owing to the transversal nature of governance, some of the commitments under this priority area await progress in other sectors.

36. Notable results were obtained with the support received from the Peacebuilding Fund by the Association of Central African Women Jurists for the establishment of legal clinics, which led to the increased awareness and training of women in Paoua and Ndélé.

37. Finally, the three actions of priority area (c), the establishment of development hubs, have registered little progress. However, progress achieved in priority area (a), security sector reform and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, has contributed to an environment that may lead to its implementation. Certain income-generating activities were carried out with support from a microcredit scheme aimed at close to 100 groups and associations in the areas of agriculture and gardening, fish farming and processing, processing of cassava or millet, soap manufacturing, catering, sewing and knitting, and transportation of various products (rickshaw).

The sustainability of the results achieved will require the full involvement of vulnerable groups and the continuation of their support.

Conclusions and recommendations

To the Government of the Central African Republic

38. General:

(a) The incorporation of the three priority areas of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding into the new poverty reduction strategy paper after the Strategy comes to an end at the end of 2011 is a positive development. These priority areas should be translated in terms of programmes and projects, and future progress in these areas should be monitored through the mechanisms of the poverty reduction strategy paper, including a role for the Peacebuilding Commission for the monitoring of peacebuilding priorities;

(b) The Government of the Central African Republic should vigorously pursue the implementation of the remaining recommendations of the December 2008 inclusive political dialogue, which remain a fundamental prerequisite for progress in the country's peacebuilding process;

(c) The Government should also make all necessary efforts to implement the official commitments made in its policy statement made by the Prime Minister to the National Assembly on 17 May 2011. These include, in particular, the completion of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration by the end of 2011, the establishment of a permanent body in charge of organizing future elections, improving good governance and the fight against corruption, and the committed focus on improving the national security, including through the development of a long-term national security sector reform strategy;

(d) The new Government should strengthen its capacities to coordinate the activities of regional and international partners more effectively, in particular those active in the three peacebuilding priorities, with a view to improving effectiveness of their actions and avoid duplication. This would further strengthen the ownership by the Central African Republic of its peacebuilding process;

(e) In the context of the country's new poverty reduction strategy paper, the Government is encouraged to prioritize the activities envisaged in this ambitious document, with a view to outlining a realistic timeline and funding requirement for the implementation of the most relevant and urgent proposed programmes. These should focus particularly on peacebuilding projects that will directly improve the living conditions of populations formerly affected by conflict;

(f) The Government should make adequate funding from its own sources available for the implementation of the priority areas and increase budget transparency. Regarding the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process, the Government should make use of the funds received from CEMAC in 2009, especially for the reintegration component.

39. **Reintegration strategy/the future of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration.** The success of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration rests on the political commitment and will of the Government of the Central African Republic to develop an inclusive and gender-responsive national reintegration

strategy for the demobilized ex-combatants, which provides a legitimate and appealing alternative for income generation. At the same time, it is crucial to incorporate the overall reintegration strategy into a strategy aimed at the socio-economic and community development of regions affected by conflict, thus providing support to future host communities and those affected by conflict. Specific attention should also be paid to the political and security conditions enabling operationalization of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and its effective implementation. In this context, it is noteworthy that the security situation has deteriorated in parts of the country. Therefore:

(a) In order to meet the end-of-year deadline for completion of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process, the Government of the Central African Republic should make all efforts to finalize and bring to fruition the recently concluded ceasefire agreement with the Convention of Patriots for Justice and Peace and the agreement between the Government of Chad and Front populaire pour le redressement to repatriate the latter to Chad;

(b) The Government of the Central African Republic should continue to engage the international community through the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Steering Committee to ensure the coherence and inclusiveness of the implementation of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme;

(c) With respect to the funding for the reintegration component of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme, the Government should disclose the amount of the contribution it is willing to make.

40. **Security sector reform.** The strengthening and professionalization of the Central African Republic's national security and defence forces, in the broader framework of democratic governance reform, and fostering of trust between those forces and the population is at the heart of peacebuilding in the Central African Republic. The security sector reform process stalled after the departure of the multidisciplinary team, and the holding of a donors' conference in October 2009. To this end:

(a) In line with the commitment by the new Government to bring about stability and security throughout the territory, the Government of the Central African Republic is encouraged to bring a new drive to addressing security sector reform through the development of a medium-term strategy for security sector reform, with support from the available international expertise. The modalities of work within the Secretariat Permanent Technique could be reviewed to that effect;

(b) The Government of the Central African Republic should take steps towards reiterating the political will to pursue security sector reform, including through a tangible financial contribution to that process.

41. **Rule of law and good governance:**

(a) The Government of the Central African Republic should pursue ongoing efforts to promote the rule of law, including through sustained efforts to move forward the implementation of the country's 10-year plan for the reform of the justice sector;

(b) The Government should also make good on commitments made towards improving good governance, fight corruption and impunity, and ensure the respect for human rights and the rights of the child;

(c) The Government of the Central African Republic should press ahead with facilitating the elaboration of individual action plans for each of the former rebel groups using and/or recruiting child soldiers.

To the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission

42. The partners' round table held in Brussels, hosted by the Government of Belgium, to discuss the country's new poverty reduction strategy paper presented the right opportunity to capitalize on the momentum generated by the holding of the elections:

(a) The Peacebuilding Commission will work with the Government and other stakeholders to identify and sensitize potential donors, including non-traditional donors from civil society and the private sector, with a view to ensuring their favourable consideration of the country's appeal for financial and other assistance, including by promoting and enhancing South-South cooperation initiatives;

(b) Taking its engagement with the Central African Republic further, beyond the expiration of the current Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding, the Peacebuilding Commission will, in consultation with the Government and civil society, develop a new tool of engagement, based on the peacebuilding elements of the country's new poverty reduction strategy report.

43. **Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration:**

(a) The Peacebuilding Commission will continue to work with all relevant actors in the country's disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process, including encouraging the development of a reintegration solution that would also benefit host communities, and address the needs of returnees, internally displaced persons and others affected by conflict;

(b) Together with national authorities, the European Union, the World Bank and the United Nations system, the Peacebuilding Commission will seek to identify possible symbiotic links between efforts to support communities affected by conflict in the context of reintegration and the development hubs programme, which aim at boosting the development of secondary economic centres throughout the country. This will also be done in collaboration with the World Bank as it rolls out its support to community reintegration activities in the north-western and central part of the Central African Republic. Such efforts could further complement or build on activities funded by the Peacebuilding Fund under its third priority area, which focus on the socio-economic revitalization of conflict-affected communities;

(c) The Peacebuilding Commission will advocate for the development of sustainable reintegration programmes for demobilized children, as well as programmes aimed at providing psychosocial accompaniment for children affected by conflict.

44. **The development hubs programme** remains a top priority for the Peacebuilding Commission in the area of community development and socio-economic stabilization of the country, as well as strengthening and rebuilding of national authority over its territory. In this area:

(a) The Peacebuilding Commission will step up efforts to press for the effective start of the development hubs programme, and ensure close linkages

between the programme, the country's new poverty reduction strategy paper, and the reintegration strategy, in order to maximize the combined effect of these initiatives;

(b) At the appropriate time the Peacebuilding Commission may be called upon to engage in resource mobilization efforts in the context of the development hubs programme. The nature and scope of this effort will have to be clearly identified in consultation with all relevant partners.

45. **Security sector reform**: The Peacebuilding Commission will turn its attention to security sector reform in the next period, and remains available to support ongoing national processes, as appropriate, towards the development of a refined long-term national security sector reform strategy, founded on the findings of the April 2008 security sector seminar.

46. **Rule of law and good governance:**

(a) The Peacebuilding Commission could consider supporting the implementation of a voluntary partnership agreement on forest law enforcement, governance and trade in timber products (FLEGT), initiated on 21 December 2010 between the Government of the Central African Republic and the European Union. The FLEGT mechanism provides a comprehensive framework for improving governance of the timber sector by ensuring the legality of timber exported. At the same time, it promotes an inclusive approach involving civil society and the private sector;

(b) With the conclusion of the electoral process and the subsequent arrival in the National Assembly of new members of Parliament, the continuation of the UNDP-led Parliamentary Development Project and the implementation of the project proposed by the Inter-Parliamentary Union to assist the National Assembly should be considered. Both would provide assistance to the legislative body and make sure that members of Parliament work within a framework of dialogue. Participation in the parliamentary consultations on rule of law in Bangui on 13 and 14 October 2011, organized by Parliamentarians for Global Action, should also be considered in this context;

(c) **Children and armed conflict.** The Peacebuilding Commission will seek to keep abreast of the implementation of relevant recommendations of the report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in the Central African Republic and interact with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the working group of the Security Council in this regard. The Commission will advocate with the United Nations country team in the Central African Republic to make efforts towards the effective implementation of the monitoring and reporting mechanism called for in Security Council resolutions 1612 (2005) and 1882 (2009);

(d) **Sexual violence in conflict.** The Peacebuilding Commission will pursue its dialogue with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on what action could be taken in this regard.

To the civil society of the Central African Republic

47. Civil society should:

(a) Do further work towards enhancing its capacities to play a meaningful role in the country's peacebuilding process;

(b) Strengthen its consultative role in decision-making processes;

(c) Establish more internal partnerships to enhance its influence.

To the Joint Steering Committee

48. The Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding allowed for the implementation of several recommendations of the inclusive political dialogue, on the one hand, and peace consolidation throughout the territory, on the other hand. In order to ensure their sustainability, progress made in the implementation of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding will continue to require regular and continuous follow-up, in particular of the commitments made by its various stakeholders.

49. Effective strategies for the mobilization and the use of funds will need to be developed, and sectoral coordination will need to be strengthened (through steering committees). The involvement of stakeholders and beneficiaries also needs to be improved, as well as the strengthening of capacities and procedures for the management of funds and the use of planning tools and monitoring mechanisms.

50. However, despite its strengths, the Strategic Framework suffered from a lack of operational capacity and from the lack of clearly defined participation mechanisms for the civil society. The absence of banking institutions in the areas of intervention; the fund management procedures of partners; the weak formulation of projects in the priority areas; the low absorption capacity of funds; the absence of transfer of knowledge; the absence of demobilization and reintegration components; the lack of synergies between different programmes; and the absence of mechanisms for the involvement at the local level and of non-governmental organizations were major constraints for the implementation of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding.

51. The catalytic impact of Peacebuilding Fund projects in the Central African Republic could trigger a strong involvement of the country's key international donors, including the World Bank, the European Union and France, and perhaps lead to a larger involvement by other donors. In this connection:

(a) The Joint Steering Committee, co-chaired by the Minister of State for Planning and the Economy and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, could consider using its inclusive nature to develop and provide more focused guidance on the strategic orientations, with a view to improving the effectiveness of peacebuilding initiatives and the coordination of all actors involved in supporting the country's peacebuilding process;

(b) The Joint Steering Committee could also be encouraged to serve as a coordinating mechanism for the broader peacebuilding process in the Central African Republic, beyond the activities of the Peacebuilding Fund;

(c) As a result, the Joint Steering Committee would improve its capacity to provide critical advice on specific funding needs and possible donors, for which the Peacebuilding Commission could use its leverage to mobilize resources, beyond those provided by the Peacebuilding Fund.